

The Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,
Superintendent's Office,

December 27, 1898.

Director of the Mint,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

In your letter of August 30th, ordering dies for the New Orleans Mint, you allude to a letter of the Superintendent of that Mint in which he states that he has on hand some unused dies which are so corroded as to be unfit for use. In my letter of the following day I requested their return. They were returned, being shipped from New Orleans on September 3rd, and the box upon its arrival was by the Cashier and Assayer placed in the Pyx. We have only recently discovered it for the box was unmarked and under the regulations it could not be opened if it contained assay coins.

I would respectfully request that you request the Superintendent of the New Orleans Mint to mark the boxes shipped hereafter- so that we may know whether they contain assay coins or not.

With reference to what the Superintendent calls corroded dies I have to say- that out of the twenty-three pairs there were five dies slightly discolored, no doubt due to the dampness of the climate at New Orleans, two were slightly injured- no doubt by being knocked together, but were perfect when they left here.

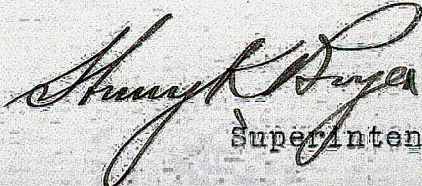
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alluded to has not impaired their usefulness in the slightest degree.

I enclose the letter of the Engraver on the subject.

Very respectfully,


Superintendent.

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Henry K. Boyer,
Superintendent